

How to host your HTML website on GitHub Pages for free

GitHub is a great place for hosting your HTML websites. It's free and you can even use your own domain names.

BTW. Our main website Pinegrow.com is a static HTML website hosted on GitHub Pages.

Sign-up for GitHub

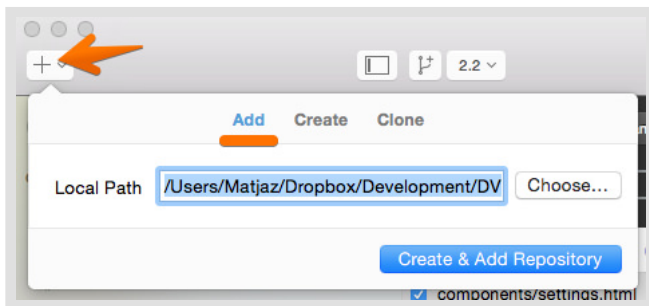
Create a free GitHub account. Skip this step if you already have one.

Download GitHub Desktop app

Download GitHub Desktop application for Mac or Windows. The app will let you work with git through GUI. Skip this step if you already have the app or prefer to use git command line tools.

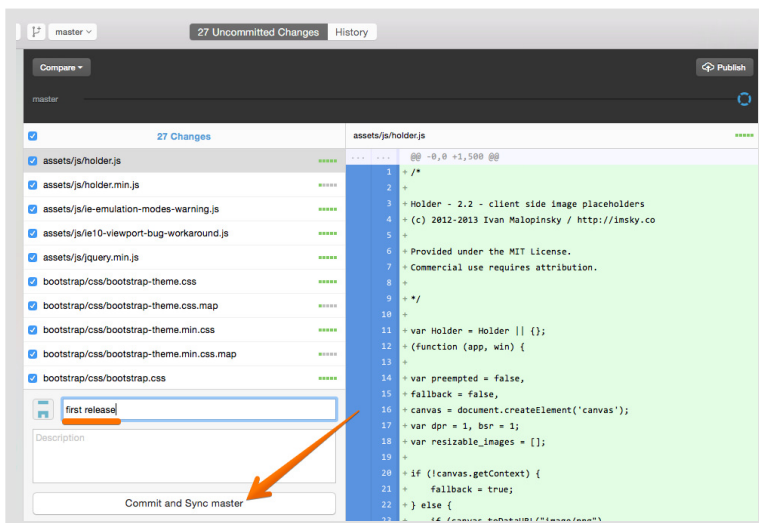
Create a Git repository

Open **GitHub Desktop** app and click on **Add repository**. Select the folder where your website is located and click on "Create & Add Repository" button.

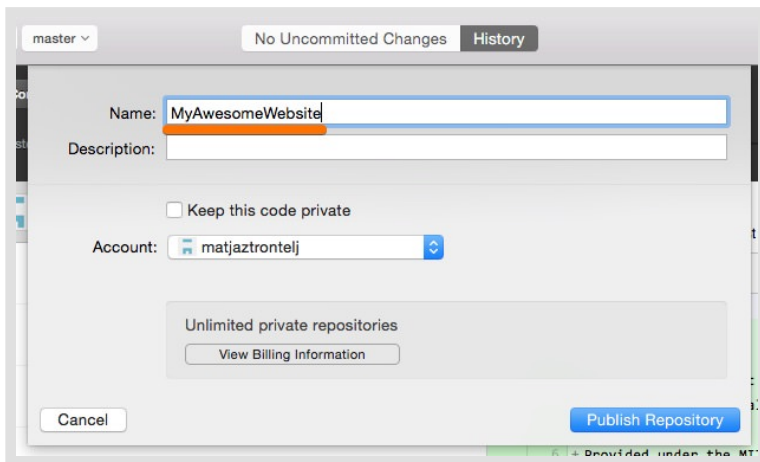


Publish the repository to GitHub

Type a commit message and press **Commit & Sync master**.

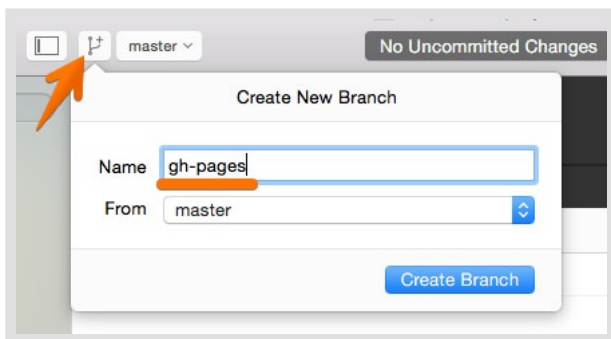


A dialog will popup. Enter the name of the repository (that will be a part of the website's URL), select if you want to keep the repository private (the website will still be public) and press "Publish Repository":

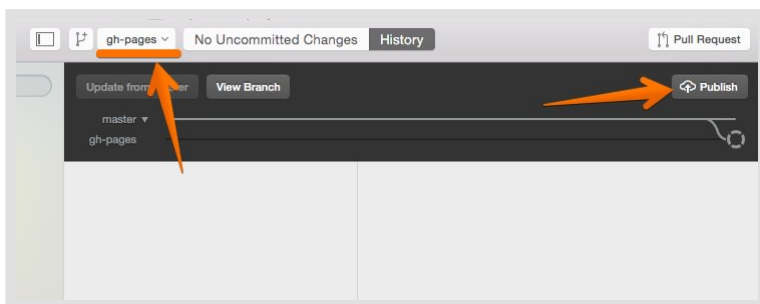


Create gh-pages branch

The repository is on GitHub but the website is not yet on GitHub Pages. To do that, create a branch named "**gh-pages**" (the name tells GitHub to publish this branch as a website) and click "Create Branch".

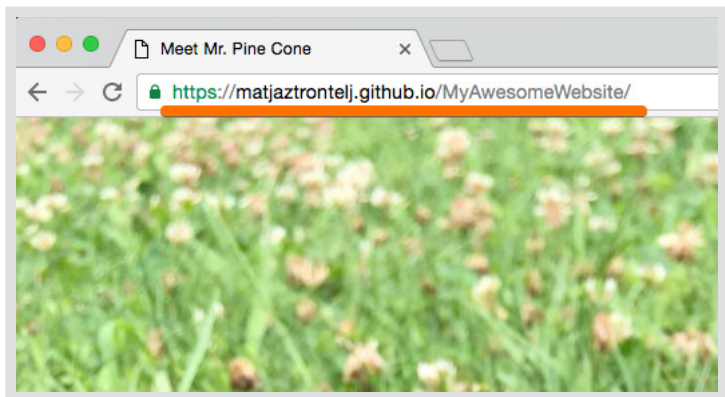


Now, make sure that **gh-pages** branch is selected and publish the branch (send it to GitHub):



The website is online!

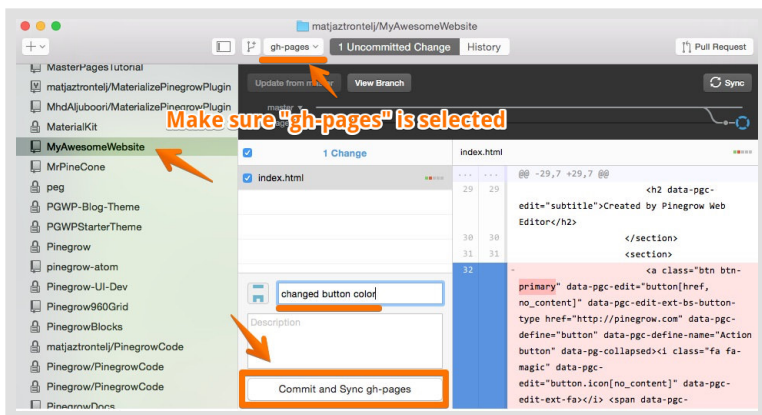
The url of your website will be <http://<your-github-username>/github.io/<your-repository-name>>. You can even use your own domain, so that the url will be <http://<your-domain>>



Publishing changes

Important: the selected branch should always be **gh-pages**

To publish changes made to the local copy of your website, open GitHub Desktop app, select your repository, type a commit message and click on **"Commit and Sync gh-pages"**:



Last updated on February 15, 2017 at 12:40 am

